

Alexander Rorke, Jr.
x 642

Charges Kennedy Called Off U.S. Invasion of Cuba

BY ED KANDLIK

A Cuba freedom fighter said Friday that President Kennedy called off a full-scale invasion of Cuba just before the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Alexander Rorke Jr., the first U.S. citizen to be imprisoned by the Castro government, was in Chicago Friday to address the Executives Club of Chicago. Rorke, while on a news assignment for the National Broadcasting Co., was

thrown into jail for 10 days. Since then he has been active in the resistance movement.

Rorke said that operation "Grey Ghost," as the Cuba invasion plan was named, was to have included 15,000 marines and U.S. Army troops landing at Matanzas; a breakout of the U.S. Army from Guantanamo Bay to capture Santiago; and a 3,500 man trained battle group from Vieques Island.

Cuban refugees were to have

set up a provisional government, he said.

Rorke said he got his information about plans for operation "Grey Ghost" from U.S. Navy officers, people with the Central Intelligence Agency and from Cuban fighter groups.

He was to join the invasion at Cuba, but by the time he got there it was over.

Rorke said 85 U.S. Navy ships were to have participated in the action.

Rorke charged that there were actually 18 instructors from the U.S. lost in the Bay of Pigs assault rather than the four men who have been named. He said some of the planes were damaged or ran out of gas and landed during the invasion. The crews were summarily shot, he said.

Rorke, a wavy-dark-haired Irishman who looks Spanish, said he has been in Cuba 15 times since his first visit. The

last time was New Year's Day, 1963. On his second trip he was thrown into a Cuban jail upon landing at the airport, held overnight, and put on the next plane back to the U.S.

Rorke said there is a desperate need for guns and supplies for resistance units in rural areas but the CIA is no longer supplying them.

He says his underground sources report Russian missiles are still in Cuba but that they

are now being kept underground. The Student Directorate is trying to get pictures of the underground missiles, he said, but as yet have been unsuccessful.

Rorke says he spends his full time building up resistance to Castro as a member of a group called U.S. Freedom Fighters. He said the group gets money from friends and by lectures and selling films.

